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Government of Madras.

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278

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Hill Tracts.

No. 228. Read the following **Proceedings of Government in the Judicial Department, dated 6th April 1875, No. 792 :—**

ABSTRACT.—**The proposal to utilize the Parvatipore Hill Jail for the custody of prisoners from the Jeypore Zemindari, whose sentences exceed one month, sanctioned; as also certain additions to the jail at Koraput.**

No. 229. ORDER THEREON, 21st April 1875, No. 900.

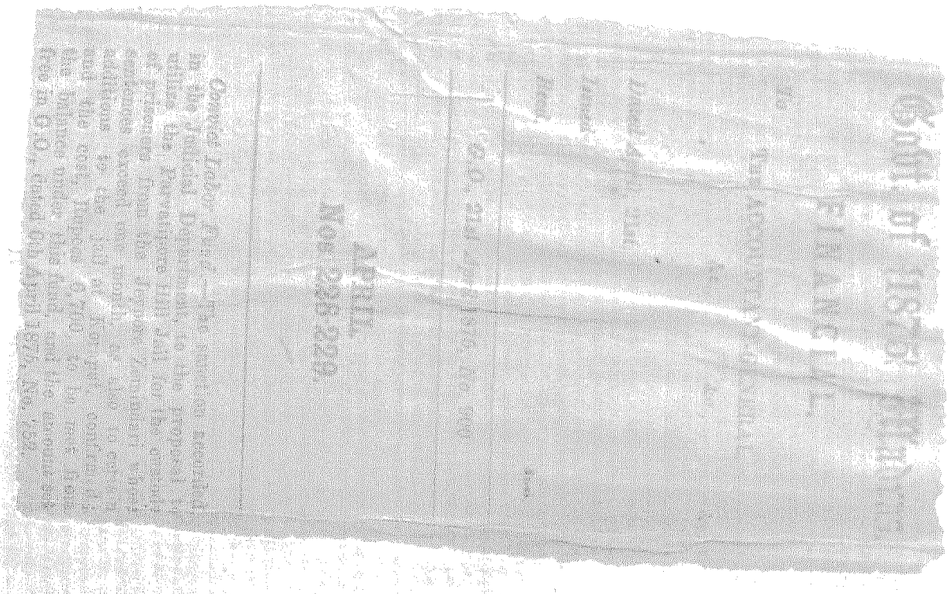
The sanction granted is confirmed. The cost, Rupees 6,700, will be met from the balance under the Convict Labor Fund, and the amount, Rupees 4,000, set free in G.O., dated 6th April 1875, No. 752, paragraph 7.

(True Extract.)

Chief Secretary.

To the Accountant-General.
,, Inspector-General of Jails.

Exd. J. Wright.



Hill Tracts.

No. 53. Read the following letter from H. ST. A. GOODRICH, Esq., Acting Agent to the Governor of Fort St. George in Vizagapatam, to the Hon. W. HUDLESTON, Chief Secretary to Government, Fort St. George, dated Ankapilli, 28th March 1875, No. 159:—

In forwarding the enclosed copies of letters from my Special and Senior Assistants, I beg to recommend that the hill jail at Parvatipore be utilized in future for the custody of all prisoners from the Jeypore Zemindari whose sentence exceeds one month, and that certain additions and alterations be made in the hill jail under construction at Koraput, and that sanction be granted for their cost as well as the cost of the completion of the buildings designed as a hill jail at Koraput.

2. Mr. Willock's letter sets forth, at length, the history of the Parvatipore Jail, which has only lately been used for the custody of prisoners. I visited Parvatipore three weeks ago, and, although I was not in time to meet the Inspector-General of Jails there, I had the advantage of meeting him a few days later in Waltair, and found that he was equally desirous with myself to utilize the building for the confinement of hill prisoners with an establishment similar to that entertained at Russelcondah.

3. The numbers to be accommodated may be estimated from the figures for the past three years which I append in tabular form. The Ganjam hill prisoners used to number about 120 a few years ago, and I should expect the Jeypore criminals will be as numerous when the Magistracy have more points of contact with the people in the wilder parts of the Jeypore country.

4. Accommodation for about eighty prisoners sentenced to terms exceeding one month can be provided in the Parvatipore Jail. Alterations are in contemplation, and there will be no difficulty.

5. The existing four wards of the Parvatipore Jail will, I believe, hold twenty prisoners each. Even if additional accommodation be hereafter needed it can easily be constructed within the increased area which the removal of the enclosing wall to the line of the old rampart will enclose. No additional wards will be needed at present if the whole building existing be turned to its proper use.

6. At Koraput provision should be made for the accommodation of thirty prisoners sentenced to less than one month, and under trial. The rough sketch in Mr. Turner's letter, printed in Proceedings, 26th August 1872, Judicial Department, shows what was intended to be provided. Referring to that sketch the huts B, C, D, E, G were at the time of my visit very nearly completed as to their walls. Their roofs were being actively prepared.

7. I was of opinion, and Major Balmer agreed with me, that the best thing to be done now would be to complete the three huts B, C, D as wards for the custody of thirty prisoners and to employ them in building a wall to enclose themselves. This is necessary for economy in guarding. The huts E and G I would connect by the addition of another hut, and the block would be used as lockup, Treasury Subordinate Magistrate's Office, and Police Station-house.

8. I have sent for a sketch-plan of the additions which should have accompanied the estimate for them, and will forward directly it is received. I request early sanction for the estimates for completion and addition.

9. I beg to support Mr. Johnson's application on behalf of the Contractor that he be relieved from the obligations of his contract, and that he be not called upon for any refund of money.

From E. C. JOHNSON, Esq., Acting Special Assistant Agent, to H. St A. GOODRICH, Esq., Acting Agent to the Governor of Fort St. George in Vizagapatam, dated Koraput, 5th March 1875, No. 41.

I have the honor to forward, herewith, a rough estimate by the Executive Engineer, Jeypore Range, for the completion of the hill jail at Koraput. This estimate can only be taken as approximately correct, as Mr. Nordmann has as yet no sufficient data for fixing his rates. As but 500 Rupees of the sum originally sanctioned will remain at the close of the official year, a further grant should be applied for without delay.

2. When you were at Koraput I informed you that the Contractor having failed to fulfil the terms of his contract and his work not being satisfactory, I had been obliged to take the work out of his hands, and had handed it over for completion to the Public Works Department. I delayed writing to you officially upon the subject until I could obtain an approximate valuation of the Contractor's work.

3. The hill jail was sanctioned in GO., No. 1625, dated 12th December 1872, at the estimated cost of Rupees 4,575. Mr. Turner at first took the work in hand under his own direction, and expended Rupees 396-10-3 in preliminary operations. Of this sum a large part was spent in collecting limestone, which subsequently turned out of no practical value. Shortly before his departure from the division on furlough, Mr. Turner gave over the work on contract to one Raghapadi, who agreed to complete it by the end of March 1874 for the balance of the estimate, Rupees 4,178-5-9.

4. In my letter, No. 50, dated 24th April 1874, I brought to notice that the Contractor had failed to comply with the terms of his contract, but recommended that he should be given time to complete the work.

5. This working season he arrived at Koraput very late, and it shortly became apparent that he had no money to pay his workmen, and could not carry on the work unless I made him further advances. This I was unwilling to do, as he had already received Rupees 3,178-5-9, and the balance of the original grant, Rupees 1,000, was evidently insufficient for completing the work. At the same time the Executive Engineer expressed himself dissatisfied with the quality of the work done; so I thought it best on the whole to take the completion out of the Contractor's hands. To this the latter makes no objection.

6. I have now obtained from Mr. Nordmann an approximate estimate of the value of the work done up to the 1st instant, which he makes to be Rupees 3,184. This sum includes work done since the termination of the contract by the Public Works Overseer, at a cost of about Rupees 350, and besides the work done by the Contractor, Rupees 396-10-3 spent by Mr. Turner have to be taken into consideration. Of this latter amount, however, for the reason already stated (paragraph 3), I do not think that more than 100 Rupees have any actual representation in the work done; therefore, deducting on these two accounts the sum of Rupees 450, the work performed by the Contractor may be taken to be worth Rupees 2,734. This allows nothing for supervision, commission, &c., an allowance for which at 10 per cent. would raise the figure to Rupees 3,007.

7. This would leave a balance of Rupees 171-5-9 due from the Contractor; but I would not propose that he be called upon to make this good, as I am satisfied that the amount actually expended upon the work is in excess of what he has received. The Contractor cannot read and write, and consequently has no accounts to show. My calculation is based on my own memory of the amount of labor and material employed by him. He has had many difficulties to encounter, and deserves some consideration.

From W. A. WILLOCK, Esq., Acting Senior Assistant Agent, to H. St. A. GOODRICH, Esq. Acting Agent to the Governor of Fort St. George in Vizagapatam, dated Vizianagram, 5th March 1875, No. 67.

As requested by you, I have the honor to forward a short account of what has occurred about the Parvatipore Hill Jail up to the present time.

2. The desirability of confining hill prisoners in a climate more akin to that of their own country than the low-coast taluqs, appears first to have been brought to the notice of Government by Mr. Fane in his letter, dated 15th November 1861, in which a small hill jail at Jeypore was proposed. An estimate seems to have been framed for a jail to contain fifty convicts, but the Inspector-General declined to forward the scheme on the ground that no funds were available for its construction.

G.O., dated 23rd December 1862, No. 2114.

3. Mr. Carmichael in his letter, No. 559, dated 23rd October 1862, reverted to the subject, but consideration of his proposals was postponed pending the receipt of revised estimates.

4. Mr. Rhode, the Inspector-General of Jails, in his letter dated 9th March 1863, again called the attention of Government to this question, and Mr. Carmichael in a letter, dated the 15th April 1863, withdrew his former proposal of establishing a hill jail at Jeypore, and suggested Parvatipore as a more desirable site, describing it as a place within easy distance of both the Jeypore and Kimedy Hill Tracts and often resorted to by the hill-people, voluntarily for the purpose of trade.

G.O., No. 696, dated 5th May 1863.

5. In the Order thereon the proposal that a subsidiary jail for the imprisonment of prisoners from the Hill Tracts of Jeypore and the South of Ganjam should be erected at Parvatipore was approved of, and the Department of Public Works was directed to prepare plans and estimates in communication with the Inspector-General of Jails.

6. An estimate for the necessary building, at a cost of Rupees 11,000, was accordingly prepared by Colonel Chambers and was sanctioned. The work was commenced early in 1864, the site, the old Belgaum Fort, having been selected by Mr. Carmichael towards the end of 1863 (see letter to the Inspector-General of Jails, dated 28th December 1864, in which he mentioned that accommodation for 100 prisoners would be wanted).

G.O., No. 3542, dated 2nd December 1863.

7. It does not appear from the records that any further correspondence took place until 1866. In February in that year the Agent wrote a letter to the Inspector-General about the jail, and, in his reply, he stated that there was nothing in his office on the subject of a later date than the papers published in G.O., dated 5th May 1863, No. 696, and requested further information as to what prisoners were to be confined there, &c.

Original cannot be found.
Letter from Inspector-General of Jails, to Agent, Vizagapatam, No. 852, 7th March 1866.

8. It, however, appears from the Government Order quoted above that the plan of the building then under construction had been prepared in communication with Mr. Rhode towards the end of 1863. Mr. Carmichael's reply states that the jail is meant to accommodate 100 prisoners, and that all prisoners from the Hill Tracts sentenced by the Subordinate Magistrates and Assistant Agents to terms beyond one month, and all prisoners sentenced by the Agency Sessions Court are to be confined therein.

Letter from Agent, Vizagapatam, to Inspector-General, No. 31, dated 19th March 1866.

9. The next important paper on the subject is a letter to Government from the Superintending Engineer, dated 21st December 1866, No. 218, informing them that Rupees 11,043 had been spent, and that the work had been stopped, as the ventilation was bad and the buildings closely crowded together, and that the question of removing the surrounding wall to a greater distance had been referred to the Inspector-General. This letter was ordered to lie over until the latter question was disposed of.

G.O., No. 110, dated 12th January 1867.

10. An estimate for the necessary alterations, amounting to Rupees 8,604, appears to have been sent in to the Inspector-General of Jails in March 1867, and in the letter quoted in the margin the Superintending Engineer requested to be informed how it had been disposed of. Colonel Wilson in his reply to this (12th October 1868) gives a list of certain other alterations and additions required, and mentions, with regard to a proposal made by the Supervisor that some convicts should be at once confined in the jail, to be employed in removing the ramparts of the old fort (not as a sanitary measure, but to prepare the foundation of the new surrounding wall) that when the central tower was removed, and the walls lowered to seven feet, he would not object to the transfer of prisoners there.

See letter from the Superintending Engineer, dated 24th September 1868, No. 180.

11. What occurred after this I am unable to find out, but I believe that the new estimate amounted to such a large sum (over Rupees 20,000) that the idea of carrying out the alterations was given up. The jail was at the time nearly finished, but nothing more was done to it until 1874, when some slight alterations were made to adapt part of it as a Subordinate Magistrate's Cutcherry.

12. It appears from the above that the main part of the building was never condemned, and that the existence of the central tower and surrounding wall alone prevented its being occupied. I believe that the matter has been allowed to lie over since then, owing to a misapprehension amongst the District Officers that the principal sanitary objection to its occupation was its position within the walls of the old Belgaum Fort, an idea which Colonel Wilson seems never to have had, as his proposal of removing the surrounding wall to a distance of 100 feet all round would have placed that wall right in the centre of the rampart which it would everywhere have over-topped.

13. The building remained empty, as stated above, until the end of May 1873. The Parvatipore Subsidiary Jail had been becaming unsafe for sometime before, and on the burst of the monsoon, which came on with unusual violence, the wards became so dangerous that I was obliged to remove the prisoners, on my own responsibility, to the unoccupied hill jail, where they have remained ever since.

14. An estimate for a new Subsidiary Jail and Cutcherry at Parvatipore had been sanctioned in 1869, and the work was commenced, but early in 1870 the Senior Assistant Collector wrote to say that the building was not required.

G.O., dated 13th September, No. 3005.
No. 106, dated 3rd May 1870, Senior Assistant's file.

15. The work was stopped, and the Collector called on to report, and he confirmed the opinion of the Senior Assistant Collector, and suggested that, if farther accommodation was required, the hill jail might be utilized for a Subsidiary Jail, Subordinate Magistrate's Cutcherry, and Senior Assistant's Cutcherry.

See Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, No. 6887, 29th November 1870.

16. The Board approved of this, and remarked that accommodation for a Civil Dispensary might also be found.

17. In the Government Order thereon estimates and plans of the necessary alterations were called for. While at Parvatipore in December 1873, the Collector examined the places, &c., and in his letter, No. ——, expressed himself strongly of the opinion that the idea was objectionable in every way, and suggested that a sum of Rupees 500 should be spent in adapting part of the jail as a Subsidiary Jail and Cutcherry for the Subordinate Magistrate, and this was sanctioned and the necessary alterations made. One wing and the central tower has been made use of for this purpose.

Dated —— December 1873.

18. The desirability of confining hill prisoners in a climate somewhat like their own was again pressed by Mr. Melville in 1871, and Koraput and Gunupur were selected as sites of jails to certain hill prisoners sentenced to less than six months. Plans and estimate were sent in, and a sum of Rupees 956 was sanctioned for the construction of an extra building at Gunupur to contain the prisoners.

G.O., dated 19th September 1871, No. 1307, and G.O., No. 126, 26th August 1872.

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Judicial Department, 6th April 1875.

19. In March 1874 I went up to Gunupur to select the site, but finding the building sanctioned quite inadequate to the purpose, as it consisted of four rooms nine feet by twelve feet each without any enclosure, I wrote to the Agent suggesting that the old hill jail would afford very much superior accommodation for those sentenced to over two months' imprisonment, and this proposition was sanctioned. The prisoners sentenced to the specified terms have since been confined there.

Letters to Agent, No. 81, 23rd February 1874, and No. 166, 20th March 1874.

G.O., dated 21st April 1874, No. 713.

20. From the above it will be seen that the project of having a jail at Parvatipore, or some similar place for hill prisoners, has always been considered most desirable, and that the idea that the present buildings have been condemned on sanitary grounds is always a misapprehension. Colonel Wilson objected only to the central tower, and the near proximity of the stone wall which surrounds the building, not to the earthen rampart of the fort. This has now been to a great extent removed by the Department of Public Works and villagers, it being partly composed of excellent kunkur, and partly of earth which is found valuable for building houses and as manure.

21. In conclusion, I may as well remark that the hill tribes have now but little objection to coming to Parvatipore. During last year I was twice visited there by large bodies of Khonds from the Serdapur and Bejapur Muttas in connection with disputes which have occurred there. It is within ten or twelve miles of hills inhabited by the Deshaya Khonds, and there are numbers of people who can talk Ooriya (a language Khonds generally understand a little of) in it. It is not until Parvatipore is passed on the road to the coast that all connection with the hills is lost. The Khonds at present at Parvatipore show no signs of despondency such as are mentioned by Mr. Lee Warner, except when a case of sickness necessitates a removal to the Police Hospital. The effect of confinement amongst a different race of people there at once makes itself manifest. In the jail itself the prisoners are cheerful and do what work is given them willingly. Occasional dysentery appears to be the only thing they suffer from, and that most probably can be remedied by attention to their diet.

No. 54. ORDER THEREON, 6th April 1875, No. 792.

The Governor in Council approves and sanctions the proposals made in the above letter, *viz.*, that the Parvatipore Hill Jail be used in future for the custody of all prisoners from the Jeypore Zemindari whose sentence exceeds one month, the number being estimated at about eighty, and that the Koraput Hill Jail be completed on the scale necessary for the accommodation of thirty prisoners sentenced for not more than one month and under trial.

2. The sum originally sanctioned for the Koraput Jail was Rupees 4,575, of which Rupees 3,575 have been expended by the Special Assistant and the Contractor, and the value of the work done by them is estimated about Rupees 2,850, allowing nothing for supervision, commission, &c.

3. Of the remaining sanctioned amount, about Rupees 500 are estimated to be spent up to the close of the official year 1874-75, and Rupees 500 will remain in hand.

4. To complete the jail on the scale now desired is roughly estimated to cost (Rupees 7,200 — 500) Rupees 6,700, and provision for the work to this amount will be made from the Convict Labor Fund.

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Judicial Department,
6th April 1875.

The Contractor need not be called on for any refund.

(True Extract.)

Chief Secretary.

To the Acting Agent to the Governor of Fort St. George in Vizagapatam.
,, Inspector-General of Jails.
,, Public Works Department.
,, Accountant-General.
,, Financial Department.

Exd. J. Wright.

28th April 1875. Rs 900

Sheet

The Sanction Sanctioned is confirmed. Rs. 6,700 with a draft from the Balance with the Convict Labour Fund, & the amount (Rs 400) as per in S. O. of 6th April 75. No 752. Fort. Form 7.

To the Accountant Genl } Dept 29/6 24/5
- " - Instr. Genl of Jails }

Thanjavur Agency

Govt. of 1875 Works.

JUDICIAL.

To

THE ACTING AGENT TO THE GOVERNOR OF FORT ST. GEORGE IN VIZAGAPATAM, &c., &c., &c.

Dated April 6th.
Issued — 14 "
Rect. — 16,

Rect.

G.O., 6th April 1875, No. 792.

APRIL.
Nos. 53-54.

No 752

Proceedings.—The proposal to utilize the Parvatipore Hill Jail for the custody of prisoners from the Jeypore Zemindary, whose sentences exceed one month, sanctioned; as also certain additions to the jail at Kompti.

Mch 1876

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Encl

21st Apl 8 902

228-229

Convict Labour Fund

The question arises whether the fund ought to be applied to the proposal to utilize the Parramatta Gaol for the custody of prisoners from the Goulburn Penitentiary, whose sentences expire within six months, as also to reclaim additions to the gaol at Maitland, confirmed, the cost (Rs 6,700) to be met from the balance under that fund, & the amount debited in G.O. 37 6th April 1875, No 752.